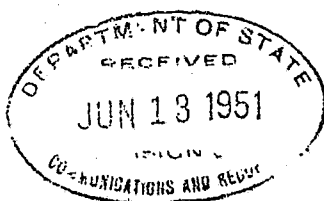


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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TELEPHONE

Memorandum of Conversation

DEPT. OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DATE 3/20/81

REVIEWED BY EC DATE April 30, 1951

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REASON(S)
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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
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SUBJECT: Reported Opinion President Paasikivi on Importance of Swedish Neutrality to Finland

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Emil Hurja

Mr. Charles E. Rogers

COPIES TO: BNA
EUR
American Legation, Helsinki

During a conversation with Mr. Hurja this afternoon he mentioned that during his recent visit in Finland he had had an hour and a half's private discussion with President Paasikivi. Mr. Paasikivi had reiterated during this conversation Finland's reliance on the Mutual Aid Pact with the Soviet Union as its principal safeguard of independence. As long as Sweden remains outside the North Atlantic Treaty, this pact provides a guarantee. The only pretext the Soviet Union would have for taking over Finland, in Paasikivi's opinion as thus reported, would be in the event Sweden joined the NAT.

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